

# We're going to be doing things different!

## Lindfield URC response to the COVID19 outbreak

Updated 17/03/2020 16:00

**Lindfield United Reformed Church is suspending, until further notice, all groups, meetings and other times we gather to be as church, including Sunday services.**

We are seeking to be relational as a scattered church, using technology as appropriate to communicate. Although we cannot be together physically, it is the intention to **continue to produce a limited Sunday morning service** streamed online at 10am, and available afterwards on disc.

If you are at home and unable to get out, but need some form of support, perhaps something dropped off at your door, then do contact your elder. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your need, but we can try.

### Background

The UK government has indicated that the Coronavirus is a **grave danger to the population**, particularly to those who are over the age of 70, and those with certain health conditions. Advice was given on the 16<sup>th</sup> March by the Prime Minister for **all people to reduce social contact**, and the Health Secretary's subsequent answers to questions in the House of Commons, included a reference to religious gatherings. Following this the decision was taken to protect our members and friends by suspending activities involving contact.

Today the guidance of the moderatorial cover for the Southern Synod of the URC supports the decision we made, they "urge local churches not to meet for worship" and said "This advice extends to all other regular church groups and activities"

### Health

Some of us may need to socially distance themselves for the good of their health. Others may find the need to self-isolate if they or a member of their household show symptoms of the virus. Please consider the overall advice about reducing social contact, not simply for yourself but for the safety of others.

**Remember the symptoms** are a new continuous cough, or a fever of 37.8°C (100°F). If you have either of these please self-isolate. If you live by yourself this isolation is for 7 days. If you live with others the whole family should be isolated for 14 days, but note that members of the family catching the virus late in the 14 days need to isolate for a further 7 days. **For many the virus would be like a dose of flu, and the great majority of people will quickly recover.** If necessary seek medical assistance.

**If you are unwell**, please do let your elder, a pastoral team member, or the minister know. We are not able to visit but can call you. We may also be able to leave essential supplies at your door.

### Worship although we cant be together

Many of you will have access to the **internet** in your home. This allows a range of other ways to stay connected. In more recent times the church has been able to **stream** the audio of the service so that it can be heard on Sundays as it happens and therefore you may feel more connected than listening later in the week. To access the live streaming visit the church website **[www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)** and click the "**Listen Live**" link. A back catalogue of sermons are also available via the website, or via Apple podcasts.

It has been our practice for many years to record church services. These **services are available on CD**, and can be borrowed from the church. Our Audio/Visual team say they have a stock of blank CDs. It is possible to produce discs of a service and deliver. Please let an elder know, if this would be useful to you.

Please continue with your own daily devotions, there are many handy study notes and books, there are study resources available online, and there are smart phone apps such as the daily resource "Lectio 365" from 24-7 prayer.

In the absence of the Lighthouse groups we hope to email regular **resources for families** to use together at home.

### **Keeping in touch**

The minister, elders and pastoral team will try and make **phone calls** ensuring that pastoral care is received though visits are probably not possible.

If your contact details have changed from the directory then please tell our Church Secretary, Sue.

The church directory contains very few mobile phone numbers, but mobile phones can be a good way of **cascading information** to many individuals via a single simple text message. It is particularly useful for those without internet access. If you would like to be part of such a system, even if you don't have a mobile phone, then please **let Keith, our minister know** – preferably by sending a text to his mobile including your name, or by phoning him. This system might be used for things like a "thought for the day", or to communicate urgent news.

A WhatsApp group has been established for the church, you may want to be added, this allows a wider chat than one to one texting.

When possible, we will post information on the church website, and on the church social media pages (Facebook and Twitter).

### **Useful Phone Numbers**

Minister	Rev Keith Morrison	01444 484791
	Mobile:	07419 987003
Church Secretary	Sue Gooch	01444 455047
	Mobile:	07929 081704
Youth Pastor	Danny Goodall	07443 438970